

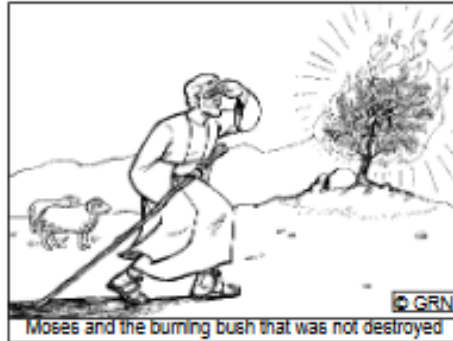
Manna teaching books: typical page layout

Then God spoke to Moses from the bush: 'Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground' (3:4-5).

At once Moses turned his face away (3:6). He was afraid to look at the brightness of God's glory in the bush.

When Moses obeyed, God spoke again: 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'

Then God told Moses that He had come down because He was ready to save His people from the Egyptians. He wanted Moses to lead the



Moses and the burning bush that was not destroyed

Hebrews out of Egypt, and to go to Canaan, 'a land full of milk and honey' (3:8). It would be 'a good land'. But it would be a land where evil people lived. 10 tribes lived in Canaan at that time (Genesis 15:18). God told Moses to tell the Israelites to leave the place promised to them for 400 years and move to the place promised them forever. They must leave behind the gods of Egypt. They must learn to be a holy people, serving God.

As God brought His people out of Egypt, so Jesus Christ brings us out of a life of sin. Men are slaves to sin (Romans 6:8,16). Jesus Christ died on the cross to set us free from the power of sin. When we ask God to save us and we believe in Jesus as our Saviour, God brings us out of the kingdom of darkness, where we are trapped by the power of sin. He brings us into the

The Special Names of God

God told Moses to use the name Yahweh = the Lord (Exodus 3:15). God's name Yahweh, was so holy that the Hebrews did not say it out loud, or even write it. At that time they wrote the letters YHVH for the name of God.

Because God's name is so holy, instead of YHVH the people often used the word 'Adonai'. In English Bibles we use the word 'Lord' (with capital letters). This is not the same as the word 'Lord'. When you see 'Lord God' in English Bibles it means 'Yahweh God', the one true almighty and living God who created the world. In French Bibles, Yahweh is called the Eternal One or Everlasting God. In many books we say 'Almighty God'. God spoke to Moses to tell the Israelites about His name and His glory. He was speaking to him from the burning bush. God also used His own special name 'I AM' (3:14). Before that, God did not tell anyone His special names (8:2).

him about their problems. Moses listened first then gave them guidance from God. He did not force his own opinions on the people. He also waited for them to come to him first (18:16).

Jethro saw Moses sitting to teach God's people. He said, 'What you are doing... is too much for you... Teach them the rules and laws, show them the way to live... then choose men who fear God... to serve as judges...' (18:17-22). Jethro also knew it was important for Moses to first seek God's wisdom to do what God's people must do. 'I know that it is what God wants...' (18:18,25). Jethro was a new believer yet could understand things clearly. He was given this wisdom from God.

Moses did what Jethro said. Sometimes God gives new believers important things to do. We should always listen to new believers and try to see if what they say is right. We should encourage new believers to come to them, teach them and share meals with them and with the leaders (18:12). Like Jethro, they may be with us only for a short time (18:27).

So Moses chose good men to lead the people. Each man led a group of ten people. Then he chose other men to lead five groups, other men to lead ten groups and other men to lead 100 groups. He taught them how to live to please a holy God. The leaders over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens of people judged the small problems (18:21). When there were difficult problems they went to ask Moses for his advice.

Talk about this:

1. What was the method used to solve disputes (18:16)?
2. Is Jethro's plan good for choosing leaders today (18:21-22)?
3. Which people did Moses choose as leaders (18:21)?
4. Jethro told Moses what to do. What was the result (18:23)?

 How can we encourage new believers? How can they encourage us?

Exodus 19:1-9

GOD MAKES THE PEOPLE READY TO MEET HIM

The people of Israel came to Mount Sinai and camped in front of the mountain. It was now three months since leaving Egypt. Mount Sinai was a high mountain. People call it a holy mountain, but God does not live in a mountain or in anything that He has made. He is much greater. He is all-powerful and has control over everything He has made.

God spoke to Moses from the mountain and told him, 'This is what you are to say to the family of Jacob (Israel)...' (19:3).

'Tell them, "If you obey Me and keep My Covenant, then of all the nations you will be My special treasure. You will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a special nation"' (19:5-6).

Culturally sensitive illustrations

Easy-to-read text easy to translate

Questions for group or personal study

In-depth teaching boxes for students/pastors